

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled.
2. Cancelled.
3. Cancelled.
4. Cancelled.
5. Cancelled.
6. Cancelled.
7. Cancelled.
8. (Original) A device for recovering a feedstock liquid, comprising a remaining feedstock liquid collector, placed between a dripping nozzle or dripping nozzles of a dripping nozzle device that comprises the dripping nozzle or dripping nozzles for dripping the feedstock liquid including uranyl

nitrate to an aqueous ammonia solution wherein the feedstock liquid is transferred from a feedstock liquid reservoir through a feedstock liquid transferring passage to the dripping nozzle or nozzles and an aqueous ammonia solution reservoir in which an aqueous ammonia solution is stored, said remaining feedstock liquid collector for receiving a remainder of the feedstock liquid remaining in the feedstock liquid transferring passage when the dripping of the feedstock liquid from the dripping nozzle or nozzles to the aqueous ammonia solution is stopped; and a feedstock liquid remainder transferring passage for transferring the remainder to the feedstock liquid reservoir.

9. Cancelled.

10. (Original) A device for supplying a feedstock liquid comprising a light irradiator for irradiating with light drops of a feedstock liquid that includes uranyl nitrate, the drops being dripped from a dripping nozzle device wherein the dripping nozzle device comprises dripping nozzles and the drops are dripped from each of the dripping nozzles; and flow regulators, each of which controls an amount of the feedstock liquid to be supplied to each dripping nozzle from a feedstock liquid reservoir in which the feedstock liquid is stored, depending on

conditions of the falling of the drops irradiated with the light.

11. Cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) The device for supplying a feedstock liquid according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the light irradiator is a strobe light irradiator for emitting a light that flashes on and off periodically.

13. (Currently Amended) A device for supplying a feedstock liquid according to ~~any one of claims 10-12~~ claim 10, further comprising photosensors for sensing the light emitted by the light irradiator, and a controller for controlling the flow regulators upon an input of a sensing signal outputted by the photosensors so that the nozzles drip at the same dripping rate, the drops dripped from each nozzle have the same volume, and a drop dripped from one of the nozzles has the same volume as a drop dripped from any other one of the nozzles.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for solidifying the surfaces of drops, comprising an ammonia gas sprayer with ammonia gas-spraying nozzles, ~~for each~~ spraying ammonia gas to a path or

each of paths along which drops of the feedstock liquid that includes uranyl nitrate fall to an aqueous ammonia solution stored in an aqueous ammonia solution reservoir, the drops being dripped from a dripping nozzle device wherein the dripping nozzle device comprises ~~one or more~~ nozzles and the drops are dripped from ~~the nozzle or the nozzles,~~ and wherein the distance between the ends of the dripping nozzles and the ends of the ammonia gas spraying nozzles is from 10 mm to 40 mm, the shortest distance between the paths along which the drops dripped from the ends of the dripping nozzles fall and the ends of the ammonia gas spraying nozzles is from 3 mm to 15 mm, and the flow rate of the ammonia gas sprayed from the ammonia gas spraying nozzles is from 3 L/min to 25 L/min.

15. Cancelled.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Currently Amended) The device for solidifying the surfaces of drops according to ~~any one of claims 14-16~~ claim 14, wherein ~~the ammonia gas sprayer comprises ammonia gas spraying nozzles wherein~~ the flow rates of the ammonia gas sprayed from the respective ammonia gas-spraying nozzles are adjustable.

18. (Currently Amended) A device for solidifying the surfaces of drops according to ~~any one of claims 14-17~~ claim 14, the aqueous ammonia solution reservoir further comprising an aqueous ammonia solution discharger for discharging the aqueous ammonia solution stored therein to keep constant the distance between the ~~end(s)~~ ends of the dripping ~~nozzle(s)~~ nozzles and the surface of the aqueous ammonia solution.

19. Cancelled.

20. Cancelled.

21. Cancelled.

22. Cancelled.

23. Cancelled.

24. Cancelled.

25. Cancelled.

26. (New) A device for recovering a feedstock liquid according to claim 8, wherein the dripping nozzle device comprises nozzles, and the device further comprising a single vibrator for vibrating the nozzles simultaneously.

27. (New) The device for recovering a feedstock liquid according to claim 8, wherein the feedstock liquid transferring passage comprises a feedstock liquid supplier for supplying the feedstock liquid to the nozzles substantially at a constant flow rate and without pulsation.

28. (New) A device for supplying a feedstock liquid according to claim 10, the dripping nozzle device further comprising a single vibrator for vibrating the nozzles simultaneously.

29. (New) A device for supplying a feedstock liquid according to claim 10, the dripping nozzle device further comprising a feedstock liquid supplier for supplying the feedstock liquid to the nozzles substantially at a constant flow rate and without pulsation.

30. (New) A device for solidifying the surfaces of drops according to claim 14, the dripping nozzle device further

comprising a single vibrator for vibrating the nozzles simultaneously.

31. (New) A device for solidifying the surfaces of drops according to claim 14, the dripping nozzle device further comprising a flow regulator capable of controlling a dripping rate of the feedstock liquid and a volume of each of the drops for each nozzle.

32. (New) A device for solidifying the surfaces of drops according to claim 30, the dripping nozzle device further comprising a feedstock liquid container capable of containing a predetermined volume of the feedstock liquid supplied from a feedstock liquid reservoir in which the feedstock liquid is stored, the container having an inner volume larger than the inner volume of each of the dripping nozzles, wherein the container supplies the contained feedstock liquid to all the dripping nozzles by the force of gravity.

33. (New) The device for solidifying the surfaces of drops according to claim 32, wherein the feedstock liquid container has a horizontal section, the area of which is larger than the area of the horizontal section of each of the dripping nozzles.

34. (New) The device for solidifying the surfaces of drops according to claim 32, wherein the feedstock liquid container is directly connected to all the dripping nozzles.

35. (New) The device for solidifying the surfaces of drops according to claim 32, wherein the respective ends of all the dripping nozzles are provided with an edge thinned in the direction of the falling of the drops.

36. (New) An apparatus for producing ammonium diuranate particles, which comprises:

(1) a dripping nozzle device, comprising dripping nozzles for allowing a feedstock liquid that includes uranyl nitrate to fall in drops to an aqueous ammonium solution stored in an aqueous ammonia solution reservoir;

(2) a device for recovering the feedstock liquid, comprising:

(2-1) a remaining feedstock liquid collector, placed between the dripping nozzles and the aqueous ammonia solution reservoir wherein the feedstock liquid is transferred from a feedstock liquid reservoir through a feedstock liquid transferring passage to the dripping nozzles, said remaining

feedstock liquid collector for receiving a remainder of the feedstock liquid remaining in the feedstock liquid transferring passage when the dripping of the feedstock liquid from the dripping nozzles to the aqueous ammonia solution is stopped; and

(2-2) a feedstock liquid remainder transferring passage for transferring the remainder to the feedstock liquid reservoir;

(3) a device for supplying the feedstock liquid comprising a light irradiator for irradiating the drops with light, and flow regulators, each of which controls an amount of the feedstock liquid to be supplied to each dripping nozzle from the feedstock liquid reservoir, depending on conditions of the falling of the drops irradiated with the light;

(4) a device for solidifying the surfaces of the drops, comprising an ammonia gas sprayer with ammonia gas-spraying nozzles, each spraying ammonia gas to each of paths along which the drops fall to the aqueous ammonia solution, wherein the distance between the ends of the dripping nozzles and the ends of the ammonia gas spraying nozzles is from 10 mm to 40 mm, the shortest distance between the paths and the ends of the ammonia gas spraying nozzles is from 3 mm to 15 mm, and the flow rate of the ammonia gas sprayed from the ammonia gas spraying nozzles is from 3 L/min to 25 L/min; and

(5) a device for circulating the aqueous ammonia solution, comprising an aqueous ammonia solution circulating path through which the aqueous ammonia solution is circulated and returned to the aqueous ammonia solution reservoir, from a lower part of the reservoir, whereby ammonium diuranate particles produced by a reaction between uranyl nitrate and ammonia flow upward in the aqueous ammonia solution.

37. (New) The apparatus for producing ammonium diuranate particles according to claim 36, wherein the device for circulating the aqueous ammonia solution comprises a pipe for circulating the aqueous ammonia solution connected to a side hole formed in a sidewall of the aqueous ammonia solution reservoir and a bottom hole formed in the lower part thereof; and a pump placed in the pipe for circulating the aqueous ammonia solution.

38. (New) The apparatus for producing ammonium diuranate particles according to claim 37, wherein the side hole is covered with a member for preventing solids in the aqueous ammonia solution reservoir from flowing into the pipe for circulating the aqueous ammonia solution.

39. (New) The apparatus for producing ammonium diuranate particles according to claim 36, wherein the aqueous ammonia solution reservoir has a bottom provided with a collecting pipe and an opening/closing device capable of opening and closing the collecting pipe.